

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /118 W  
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P R 291844Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2629

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN NEW YORK 3749

UNCLAS GENEVA 7628

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ, QUACKENBUSH AND LINSENMAYER

PASS COMMERCE FOR ASST SECY BLACKWELL AND UPTON

PASS U.S. COAST GUARD FOR CAPT. DOWLEY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJECT: ILO MARITIME CONFERENCE: TEXT OF RESOLUTION THIRTEEN ON  
FLAGS-OF-CONVENIENCE

REF: GENEVA 7575

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESOLUTION THIRTEEN ON FLAGS-OF-  
CONVENIENCE, SPONSORED BY MR. WAHLSTROM OF SWEDEN.  
BEGIN TEXT:

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION,

CONSIDERING THAT IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE SUBJECT OF FLAGS-OF-  
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CONVENIENCE HAS BEEN ON THE AGENDA OF ILO CONFERENCES SINCE 1933,

THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ENQUIRES, REPORTS, CONVENTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER, THAT THE OECD HAS INDICATED THAT FLAG-OF-CONVENIENCE SHIPS GENERALLY HAVE A MUCH GREATER TENDENCY THAN OTHER VESSELS TO LOSS BY WRECK AND FOUNDERING, AND THAT EXTENSIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN AGAINST FLAG-OF-CONVENIENCE OPERATIONS BY TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS, THE USE OF CONVENIENCE FLAGS CONTINUES TO SPREAD AS ATTESTED BY THE STATISTICS (IN 1939, FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE ACCOUNTED FOR 1.2 PERCENT OF THE WORLD FLEET, BY 1971 THIS FIGURE HAD RISEN TO 19.3 PERCENT), BECAUSE CONVENIENCE FLAGS BOTH PERMIT OWNERS TO MAKE VAST PROFITS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WORKERS WHO THEIR OPERATIONS POSSIBLE AND ARE A WAY OF DEFRAUDING THE INLAND REVENUE, PARTICULARLY BY HIDING THEIR OWNERSHIP OF INVESTED CAPITAL AND THE ORIGIN OF SUCH CAPITAL, AND BECAUSE THEY FURNISH OWNERS WITH A MEANS OF HIDING THEIR IDENTITY AND OF HIRING AND FIRING CREWS AS THEY THINK FIT,

CONSIDERING FURTHER THAT EVEN ADVANCED NATIONS TURN A BLIND EYE TO SUCH PRACTICES AND THAT SOME OF THESE NATIONS EVEN GO SO FAR AS ENCOURAGING THEM PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO USE FLAG-OF-CONVENIENCE SHIPS IF NECESSARY,

CONSIDERING ALSO THE PERVASIVE NATURE OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY VESSELS FLYING FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE IN THAT THEY POLLUTE THE OCEANS, PREVENT DEVELOPING NATIONS FROM ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN REGISTRIES, ARE A DISRUPTIVE ELEMENT IN THE WORLD FLEET AND ARE SHAMELESS EXPLOITERS, IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES, OF SEAFARERS WHO ARE COMPELLED BY THE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT ON BOARD THESE VESSELS,

URGES THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE TO INVITE THE JOINT MARITIME COMMISSION TO RE-EXAMINE THE SUBJECT OF FLAGS-OF-CONVENIENCE AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION WITH A VIEW TO ABOLISHING THE PRACTICE OF USING FLAG-OF-CONVENIENCE REGISTRIES BY AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS APPLYING TO MERCHANT SHIPPING SO AS TO PROVIDE, IN PARTICULAR, THAT:

VESSELS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO FLY THE FLAG OF A STATE UNLESS THERE  
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IS A GENUINE LINK BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE VESSEL, AT LEAST 51 PERCENT OF WHICH MUST BE OWNED BY THE FLAG STATE OR NATIONALS OF THE SAID STATE,

THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE COMPANY SHALL BE SITUATED IN THE COUNTRY OF THE FLAG OF THE VESSEL,

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PRACTICE OF USING FLAGS-OF-CONVENIENCE HAS BEEN ABOLISHED MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT, IN ALL PORTS OF THE WORLD, INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT ON BOARD FLAG-OF-:9,;3,83,:3 VESSELS BY PORT STATES WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING WHETHER THE Y MEET THE NECESSARY SAFETY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION STANDARDS, WHETHER THE OFFICERS AND CREW HAVE THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS AND WHETHER PAY, WORKING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS CORRESPOND TO THOSE ENJOYED BY SEAFARERS IN ADVANCED NATIONS,

WHERE PORT STATES ARE UNABLE TO INSPECT SUCH VESSELS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE REQUIRED STANDARDS ARE MET WITH REGARD TO QUALIFICATIONS, PAY, WORKING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION SHALL BE GIVEN THE NECESSARY POWER TO UNDERTAKE SUCH INSPECTIONS. END TEXT. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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